

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER  
JANUARY, 2007**

*Below, please find a compilation of reports from each Town Department*

**ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis**

The month of January gave us a slight breather before the onslaught of the annual tax abatement season which begins Feb. 1. We start the new month with 84 tax abatement requests in hand which is far more than usual.

The triennial re-certification of values which was completed in December was expected to bring in a few more than the usual 30 or so abatements this year. There appears to be three reasons for the excessive amount of abatement requests including zoning errors, a blasting and drilling ban, and excessive media coverage of a statewide decline in home selling prices.

We received 27 abatement applications from residents of Carrington Landing who found themselves named in lawsuits due to a zoning problem that was hopefully rectified by a recent zoning amendment. The Carrington condominium owners were rightfully concerned that their property values would drop if they could no longer sell their properties. The other zoning amendment done on behalf of the Taft Hill complex off Douglas Road will hopefully prevent similar problems at that over 55 condominium community.

A recent Board of Health decision to expand the blasting and drilling ban in the Kempton Street area to 3,000 feet from a hazardous waste leak on Kempton Road in Millville has resulted in eight abatement requests from a developer who cannot build in a new sub-division. The concern is that blasting or drilling may cause the plume of waste to travel further from its origin. There is talk of expanding that ban to 5,280 feet (one mile). That will certainly generate more requests for valuation reductions.

The third reason is the widely publicized drop in the average of median sales price of houses and condos in Massachusetts. Many people have cited this as a reason their valuation should be reduced. Contrary to the rest of the state, the median selling prices of single family homes in Uxbridge increased about two per cent. The number of sales actually dropped by about 20%. Homes are taking longer to sell and prices have moderated some, but those are adjustments to be made in valuations for next year. We had one lawyer who dumped off 18 abatement requests for one developer in which 17 items were for market adjustments.

Assessors have 90 days to act on abatement requests. Persons filing for exemptions have 90 days from the date of mailing of the third quarter tax bills to submit the exemptions. The last day to file for tax abatement is Feb. 1.

We expect our DOR representative who updates our computerized mass appraisal system here to be in our office Feb. 2. At that time, we rollover the FY2007 data and prepare for the start of FY2008. New Marshall & Swift Co. values are installed in the system for use in FY2008 valuations. Any program updates are done which should make way for Barbara Harris and Jennifer Hyland to update the ownership of properties and begin making various property record updates.

This will also pave the way for us to update the offerings on the website to show current ownership and property changes. The latest mapping updates will be coming shortly from Cartographic

Associates. Changes which happened during 2006 will be on the new maps. The map website will be updated shortly to show these changes as well as ownership changes.

The DOR staff involved in our recent re-certification program has announced recommendations for the FY2010 certification. DOR expects a complete re-collection of data for all residential, commercial, industrial, apartment and mixed-use properties prior to that certification which will actually be done in calendar year 2009. Any funds required for re-valuation must come from appropriations between now and FY2009. An on-going cyclical re-inspection program is in the works here as we are aware that each building must be seen at least once every nine years.

The DOR staff advised us to take an extra special look into land schedules and the changing neighborhoods. The staff wants strong substantiation of pricing for excess and unbuildable land. Also expected is a complete re-collection of exempt and personal properties by FY2016.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Susan Smith**

Food inspections – 1

Food re-inspections – 3

Building Inspections – 2

The Health Agent worked a total of 40 hours in the month of January. The Board of Health office completed the following by e-mail, phone and walk-in:

Calls for service – 353

Request for copies – 10

Complaints - 10

Animal complaints – 2

Phone calls – 229

Walk-ins – 124

Meetings were held on January 4, 10, 12 and 18.

#### **Relevant actions:**

- 1/5/2007 Cay Den Herder and Thomas Rice site visit Pond Street on complaint.
- 1/9/2007 Cay Den Herder monthly Uxbridge Interagency/ People 1<sup>st</sup> meeting
- 1/18/2007 Sue Smith, Cay Den Herder, responding to UFD request, Hannaford's, extensive water damage, several visits.
- 1/23/2007 Cay Den Herder attended the Municipal recycler's workshop in Shrewsbury, MA
- 1/25/2007 Sue Smith and Cay Den Herder site visit Hazel Street on complaint
- 1/26/2007 Sue Smith Mendon Street, responding to UFD request, housing, Emergency Order to Vacate, several visits.
- January – Tim Rice Uxbridge District Court –Housing. Site, in question, revisited weekly.
- January – Tim Rice Massachusetts Bankruptcy Court, Worcester, summonsed to appear – land use. January – Tim Rice Buxton Street on complaint.

The Board members were extremely busy this month due to the absence of the Health Agent.

#### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro**

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> - The Building inspector's District 5 meeting was held at Tony's Pizza restaurant.

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - I made a walk thru of Bernat Mill to check work that is in progress.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> - Met with Allen Keeler to discuss options for the top floor of the Library.

The Department is still having a lot of walk-ins for zoning, building etc. Also, June has been very busy sorting and filing permit & prints prior to 2001.

January 2007 the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Plumbing	17 permits issued	Fee's collected	\$	1,685.00
Gas	9 permits issued	Fee's Collected	\$	130.00
Electric	35 permits issued	Fee's Collected	\$	4,400.00
Building	14 permits issued	Fee's collected	\$	8,924.00
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,139.00</b>

### **COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo**

#### **Outreach Report**

Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	17	Home Visits	8
Nursing Home Visits	11	Wakes & Funerals	4
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	10	Telephone calls in & out	83
Medical Appointment	1	Wellness Checks	5
SHINE	6	Attended SHINE Meeting	1

#### **Statistical Data**

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs for the month of December 2006:

Van Transportation	332	Medical Transportation	65
Tai Chi	21	Card Games/Pitch	101
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,974	Weekend meals delivered	28
Congregate Meals Served	497	<b>Total Meals Served</b>	<b>2499</b>
Cash Turnovers (\$5000 Mr. Cormier's donation to Sr. Cntr)	\$6,217.00	Phone calls in & out	756+
Guestbook	769+	Walmart	15
Cards sent to elders	49	VNA Vital Signs Clinic	14
		Hannaford	67
Lunch attendance	205+	CVS	34
Bank	10	Cardio & Yoga (New programs)	22
Computer Classes	0	Senior Club attendance	38
Podiatry Clinic	6	Fallon Rep	6

It remains the goal of the director and the staff at the Senior Center to educate our citizens regarding the eligibility requirements for the state income tax credit known as the Circuit Breaker Credit. Each January we begin to talk up and circulate information about our free AARP Tax help in an attempt to increase awareness about this income tax credit. The following is an excerpt from the January Senior Corner published monthly in The New Uxbridge Times:

The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is a state income tax credit for certain Massachusetts residents age 65 or older who paid rent or real estate taxes during the tax year. Even though the credit is based on property taxes, it is the state government, not the Town of Uxbridge that pays this particular tax credit.

The credit is for senior homeowners and renters who meet income limits and other eligibility requirements. Homeowners may claim the credit if they paid more than 10% of their total income for real estate taxes, including water and sewer debt charges. Renters can count 25% of their rent as real estate tax payments.

You must file a state income tax return to claim the Circuit Breaker Credit, whether or not you have to file otherwise. If your credit is greater than the amount of income taxes you owe, the state will give you a refund for the difference. The maximum credit for tax year 2006 is \$870.

The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is for low and moderate income seniors whose real estate tax payments are greater than 10% of their income. Homeowners and renters can claim the credit.

To qualify:

- you or your spouse must be age 65 or older by the end of the tax year
- if married, you must file jointly
- you cannot be the dependent of another taxpayer
- you must rent or own a home in Massachusetts that is your principal residence
- if you are a homeowner, your property's assessed value cannot be greater than \$684,000 on January 1, 2006
- if you are a renter, you cannot be getting a federal or state rent subsidy (such as Section 8), and your landlord must pay property taxes
- you must meet the income limits
- the amount you paid for real estate taxes must be greater than 10% of your total income

### **How do I calculate real estate tax payments?**

To calculate your real estate tax payments:

- Homeowners should include all real estate tax payments (minus any abatements or exemptions) actually paid during the tax year
- Homeowners in Uxbridge may also add 50% of the water and sewer charges paid during the year (unless they live in one of the following communities that includes water and sewer debt charges in the real estate taxes: Arlington, Avon, Easthampton, Hadley, Hatfield, Webster, and Winchester)

- Renters should count 25% of the rent payments they actually paid during the tax year as real estate tax payments.

### **What benefits will I get?**

The maximum tax credit you can get is \$870 for tax year 2006. The actual credit you will get depends on your income and your real estate tax payments.

- If your real estate tax payments for the year were less than or equal to 10% of your total income, you do not qualify for the circuit breaker tax credit.
- If your real estate tax payments were greater than 10% of your total income, subtract 10% of your income from your real estate tax payments to find the amount of your tax credit, up to a maximum of \$870 for tax year 2006.

If you did not claim the circuit breaker tax credit in previous years, you can go back and claim the credit now. You are allowed to file back three years to claim the credit.

### **Where can I get help?**

Remember, you can get help filing for the Circuit Breaker Credit at the Uxbridge Senior Center. You must make an appointment for this free service by calling 508-278-8622. You must be an Uxbridge resident to qualify for help at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Trained volunteers will be available to help you prepare your tax forms from February 2007 through April 2007. They will also help you file for the credit from previous years if you did not claim it then. If you have any questions about this free service, please call us at 508-278-8622. You can also call the Massachusetts Department of Revenue with questions about filing for the Circuit Breaker Credit. The DOR's toll-free number is 1-800-392-6089.

### **You, too, can help...**

- We invite all of our citizenry who have benefited from this tax credit to help us spread the word in an attempt to reach more and more individuals each year. We also ask our town officials to assist us by way of an announcement at the next meeting of the BOS about this important tax savings.

Special Thanks: Our thanks to the following individuals for their generous contributions to our Center. We appreciate your taking time out of your busy day to help others in need and for your support of our holiday events: Lucille's Floral Designs, 77 Blossom Shop, David Greenberg of Hope Ave Flowers, Hannaford's Supermarkets, Sir Charles Hallmark of Uxbridge, Milford VNA, Charlene DeLuca, Cathy Thornton, Mary Rice, Ellen Mayo, Joe and Jane Rondeau, Carrie Walden, Tim Ryan, Gino Carlesi, Carmine Janczyk, Jeanne Daley, Jenn Cederberg, Dave Moriarty, Pete Petrillo, Paula Montessi, Stephanie Davis, Ruth Bandstra, Fran Limanek, Gretchen Cutler, Rob Hammerton, Dan Stefanilo, The Uxbridge Fire Department, The Uxbridge Police Department, Mike Zagame, and the Uxbridge High School Student Council, St. Vincent DePaul and the People First Food Pantry, First Holiday Night Committee, Mary & Walter McDonald, Al Emrick, Barbara Griffiths, Joan & Lanny Remillard, Alice & Frank Susskey, Dot & Bill Albin, the Council on Aging Board, The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, and, to our valuable and very much appreciated

volunteers, our gratitude to you is greater than we can express with words alone. We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for your immense gifts of service. Your effort and dedication make our Center a better place. Last, but certainly not least, to those of you I may have failed to mention by name, you know who you are, thank you for being a vital part of our Center. We appreciate you. May your many kindnesses come back to bless you throughout the New Year.

#### JANUARY 2007 – Senior Center events, programs & services

Pitch Party Every Monday Night: January: 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Pitch begins @ 6:30 PM ~ \$2 donation. We are always looking for new participants. We have a big comfortable Center. Just right for playing cards together. Stop by and check us out. We offer 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes, Door Prizes, and fun, fun, fun! Coffee and complimentary refreshments served each week. Reminder: No Pitch on Monday, January 1 or Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Center Closed in observance of New Year's Day and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

Tuesday Afternoons 1:30 – 4:00 PM: Come join us for an afternoon of card playing every Tuesday at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Contact Rita @ 278-2824 for more information about this card group. All are welcome!

Mon., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: Center closed in observance of New Years Day.

Tues., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7:00 pm ~ Mental Health Support Group meeting at the Senior Center, 36 South Main Street. Please call Connie at 278-9833 if you have any questions or need more information about this important support group. This group offers support to individuals who have loved ones diagnosed with mental illness.

Thurs., Jan 4<sup>th</sup>: Wal-Mart Shopping – Pickup begins @ 8:30 AM – You must call each month to reserve your seat. Sorry, we cannot save your seat from month to month. Please call if you can't make it so the next person can jump aboard from our waiting list. Thank you!

Thurs., Jan 4<sup>th</sup>: SHINE Representative Mary Rice will be on hand from 9:00 am to 11:30 am to answer your medical and insurance questions. You may qualify for help in paying your Part B Medicare premium (\$93.50 per month). Call us at 508-278-8622 or 508-278-8638 if you think you are eligible for the MassHealth Buy-In. You must make an appointment to discuss this option as each case is different and takes time to determine eligibility. Thank you.

Tues., Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: 5:00 PM - COA Board Meeting

Weds., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am ~ Interagency meeting at the Uxbridge Police Department

Mon. Jan 15<sup>th</sup>: Center closed in observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Mon. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>: 10:00 AM ~ Meet with Fallon Rep., Jacqueline St. Germain. Jacqueline is an experienced Fallon executive and will be here to answer all your insurance questions. NOTE: It is advised that you call to make an appointment. Please call Jackie @ 1-800-333-2535 x 69794

Weds. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>: 1:30 PM Senior Club - If you are interested in joining our Senior Club, call us at 508-278-8622. Membership is \$10 per year. Senior Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month from 1:30 – 4:00 pm at the Senior Center. Bingo, special trips, a chance to socialize

with friends, and a short business meeting are some of the special features of this fun-filled, bi-monthly club.

Sat., Jan 27<sup>th</sup>: SERVE New England: Distribution begins @ 10:00 AM Call 1-888-742-7363 or go online to [www.servenewengland.org](http://www.servenewengland.org) to learn how you can save up to 50% and more on high-quality, fresh foods.

### **DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara**

#### **WATER**

1. The SCADA communications tower has been erected and final wiring and connections should be complete by February
2. Ongoing discussions and meetings are continuing to take place with our Water engineers and DEP to prepare a plan of action to overcome the ascetic water quality problem in the north end of Town. Final recommendations should be available by spring of this year.
3. Final preparations are in place to present the water tank replacement project to the BOS for their February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and an article for approval at the ATM in May.
4. The Department has been authorized by the BOS and has undergone Quarterly billing thereby improving cash flow for the Department and making the size of the utility bill more manageable for the customer.

#### **WASTEWATER**

1. The “Lynches-Capron Pond” Right of Way has been cleared and progress is being made toward Homeward Avenue and Rogerson Crossing.
2. The Department has been authorized by the BOS and has undergone Quarterly billing thereby improving cash flow for the Department and making the size of the utility bill more manageable for the customer.
3. The construction of the Lime silo is on hold until weather permits.

#### **HIGHWAY**

1. Funding has been approved by MHD for road improvements on Glendale Street, Cross Road, Elm Street, Pleasant Street and portions of Rivulet Street with construction beginning in the Spring.
2. The Hecla Bridge over the West River has been made one lane wide due to deterioration and the project is before the Capital Planning Committee for approval.
3. Both the Project notification form and the Project Informational Form have been presented to the MHD and Central Mass Regional Planning Commission for approval and inclusion in the Transportation improvement Plan. Meetings have been ongoing with the MHD regarding the scope of the project estimated at approximately \$6m.
4. Plans and specifications are being completed with construction this summer for drainage improvements at Morrison Street, Church Street, Linwood Street and Glendale Avenue.

#### **OTHER**

1. The Department assisted in covering the roof of the “Happy Hollow” School House with a temporary tarp while discussion takes place on repair and reuse of the structure.
2. 1970 records indicate that the Town Meeting voted to honor the late Dr. Martin Rawson Patrick McGuire of Uxbridge by naming the intersection of Rawson Road and Williams

- Street “McGuire Corner” and for the Town to maintain an appropriate sign at that location. The sign has been order and will be installed as weather allows 37 years late.
3. The Department is proposing 2 articles for Town meeting approval for land acquisition abutting the Blackstone well field and the replacement of the 1905 water tank on High Street

**FINANCE DIRECTOR AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT: Submitted by David Genereux**

- 1.) Third quarter tax bills were due and payable as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Taxpayers who missed this deadline are encouraged to pay their bill quickly in order to mitigate interest charges, which accrue at 14%.
- 2.) Motor vehicle excise Tax bills for 2007 will be mailed on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and are due on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Water/Sewer bills are going out on February 6<sup>th</sup> and are due on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Water/Sewer bills will now be issued on a quarterly basis.
- 3.) I’m pleased to announce that Nora Raymond has been promoted to the position of Assistant Town Accountant. Ms. Raymond will be undergoing intensive training over the next six months toward the eventual goal of becoming Town Accountant. We wish her well in her new position.
- 4.) The FY 2008 budget review is ongoing. Initial budget forecasts predict an operating deficit in excess of three million dollars. We have no regional school budget as of yet, and no preliminary cherry sheet figures. We have met with virtually all department heads, and are in the process of compiling budget recommendations.

5.) Collections for January	Motor Vehicle	12,566.38
	Personal Property	94,793.31
	Real Estate	3,204,103.40
	Tax Title	11,898.83
	Interest, Liens & Fees	<u>31,462.41</u>
	Total Collected	3,354,824.33

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey**

**INCIDENT REPORT:** The Department responded to 169 emergency incidents including 10 fire/explosion incidents, 121 rescue/medical emergencies, 14 hazardous conditions, 5 service calls, 8 good intent calls, 10 false alarms and 1 special type/complaint responses. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities 11 times and received mutual aid on 5 occasions. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- A school bus accident at 417 Hartford Avenue East requiring evaluation of 23 patients (no injuries sustained);
- A sprinkler system failure in the Deli at Hanaford’s Market on North Main Street;
- Assistance to Northbridge during a structure fire at the Lake Terrace Apartments;
- Assistance to Mendon during an incident at the Clough School, 10 North Ave.;
- Treatment and transport (via Lifeflight) of a patient injured at a construction accident on Arbor Road.



The ambulance service evaluated 135 patients, provided care and transported 104 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (90), U-Mass – University Campus (6), U-Mass Memorial Campus (2), St. Vincent's (2), Children's Hospital, Providence (1), and Landmark Medical (3). Advanced life support service support from other agencies was involved on 47 occasions.

**FIRE PREVENTION:** Open burning season for 2007 began on January 15 and runs through May 1. The lack of snow cover so far this winter indicates we will have a dry Spring season and we anticipate a high potential for brush fires. If the conditions we are currently experiencing continue we will curtail permits toward the end of the burning period (prescribed by the State) depending on weather conditions.

Permits and inspections completed over the past month include 11 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections were completed, and 223 permits issued for tank removal (2), home heating oil storage (11), propane storage (2), live entertainment (1) and open air burning (196). Personnel conducted 3 fire drills and 3 facility inspections.

**TRAINING:** Personnel received training and participated in drills on environmental emergencies and winter operations including types of winter conditions, exposure to cold and treatment, cold water emergencies, personal protection, vehicle concerns and scene operations. All personnel completed required recertification in CPR and cardiac defibrillation. One member attended Executive Skills Development training through the National Fire Academy in South Hadley, two members participated in training on the Ambulance Mobilization System, one member attended training on hybrid vehicle responses and four members participated in a drill of the Ambulance Mobilization Task Force.

I am pleased to report three members began Paramedic training in Taunton and one member is attending basic firefighter training through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy at the Douglas Fire Department.

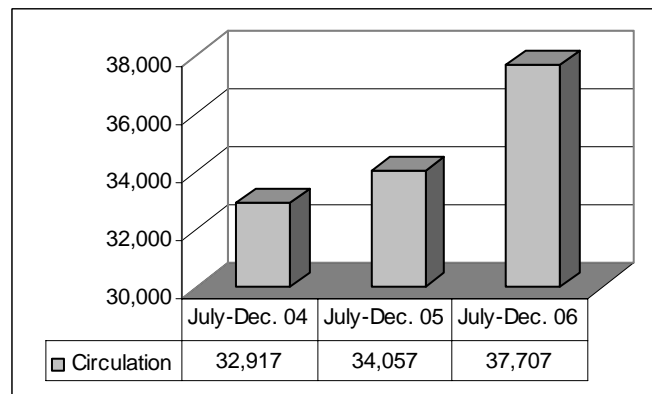
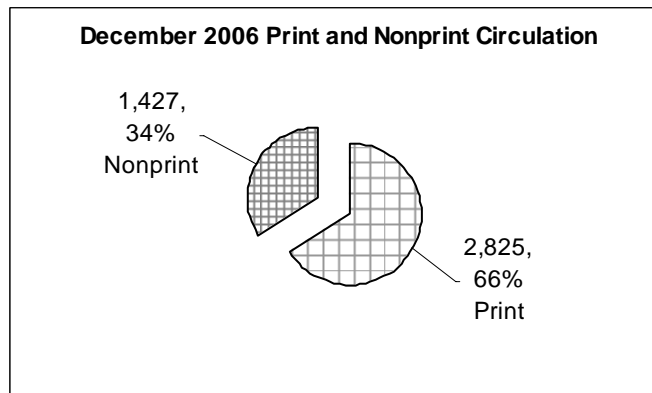
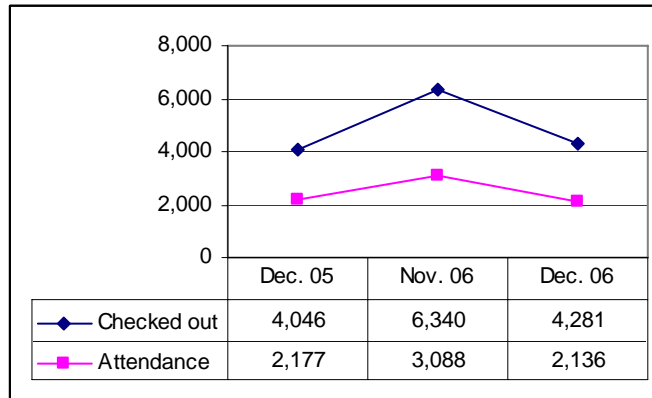
**GENERAL:** The past month has required us to interact with many other Town Departments during some rather unusual events involving crime scenes, multiple patient incidents, code enforcement, housing and health issues. Many thanks to all who work so closely with us on these issues bringing them to a successful conclusion!

The variable weather patterns of this winter have created some conditions that require us all to be alert. We have had several incidents involving heating systems and appliances that have not been properly serviced or operated as a result. Outdoor activities can be dangerous with the colder temperatures, and others can be unsafe such as any activity on ice such as ice fishing or skating. The community should be conscious of these issues.

**LIBRARY: Submitted by Susan Stanovich**

**I. Library Programs and Use**

**A. December circulation and attendance**



- B. Drop-in Story Time was held in the Children's Library on Dec. 28 and Jan. 8. Attendance was disappointing, with a total of 10 participants.
- C. The Teen Advisory Board met on Dec. 28 and Jan. 11.

## II. Community Relations

- A. Debi and I attended the Friends Executive Board meeting on Jan. 8.
- B. Again this year, the library is providing reading materials and having raffles in support of the schools' "Books and Beyond" program. The Friends of the Library also provide prizes for the readers.

## III. Fiscal Development

- A. On December 11, the library was awarded a FY07 Library Incentive Grant of \$16,237.58 for being in compliance with state minimum standards for public library service in FY06.

- B. The library received a gift of \$1,750 from Unibank on Dec. 22.
- C. The library received a check for \$5,000 from the estate of James Cormier on December 12.
- D. \$1,269 in fines was deposited into the Revolving Account from December 7 to January 11. Year-to-date deposit total is \$5,132.
- E. \$186 has been spent from the Trustee Expense Fund. Of the total amount spent from Oct. 19 to date, 78% (\$146) was spent for postage. The account has \$114 remaining.
- F. The following amounts remain in accounts as of Jan. 16:
  - Salary \$98,364
  - Expense 39,382
  - Revolving 1,041
  - Incentive Grant 17,173
- G. I attended the Capital Planning Group meeting on Jan. 4.

#### IV. Upcoming for the Director

- A. The Preservation Survey Grant application is due in Boston on Mar. 8.
- B. I am planning to attend the following meetings/ workshops:
  - Feb. 1 Capital Planning Group
  - Feb. 13 Directors' Roundtable at Millbury Public Library
  - April 24 "Financial Planning for Librarians" at CMRLS
  - April 30 "Serving Baby Boomers" at CMRLS

#### V. Building and Grounds

- A. On Jan. 3, Cori from Tucker Library Furniture visited the library and measured for replacement shelving in the Children's Library where the wooden shelving is located. An estimate is to follow.
- B. Status of the Children's Library:
  - A letter dated Dec. 20 from Health Agent Gary Covino of the Board of Health advised that the wooden bookshelves in the Children's Library contained lead paint that was chipping and hazardous.
  - On Dec. 21 Jeff Staples, a Senior Claims Adjuster from Massamont Insurance Agency, came out to inspect the situation. There is a \$1,000 deductible; once the deductible has been met, the following costs should be documented and are eligible for coverage: a) cost of paying staff for hours the library was closed as a result of the incident; b) new carpet; c) cost of the rental of carts and the labor to move the collection in the event that the Children's Library has to relocate to another site during repairs.
  - On Jan. 16, Town Manager Jill Myers met with Deb, Allan Keeler, and me concerning the issues facing the Children's Library. She and I also discussed funding options in broad terms.
  - I spoke with Finance Director David Genereux on Jan. 16 about what constitutes an emergency for procurement of services/supplies. Mr. Genereux said that the first concern in such a situation is public safety. Thus, the elimination of an environmental hazard may well be an emergency and not subject to procurement process, whereas physical repairs/renovations would need to follow procurement laws. At the present time, the scope of the situation is not fully known.

- A letter dated Jan. 15 was faxed from the Board of Health advising us of the evidence of mold and lead paint in the basement, and strongly urged the Library to have an environmental health professional inspect the building and report back to the BOH.
- The Gerard F. Bliss Co. is scheduled to do air quality tests in the library on Wednesday morning, Jan. 17. Mr. Bliss said that test results for lead paint are immediate, while results for mold and asbestos will take 7-10 days.
- Frank Adams and Richard Smith, principals of the Adams and Smith architectural firm, will visit the library on Jan. 18 to assess the environmental situation in the basement.

#### VI. Follow-up of Agenda Items

- Drainage repairs. D. J. Salmon will begin work on the north side of the building in spring.
- Lighting. The lights have been delivered and installation began on Fri. Jan. 12.
- Dehumidifier. This issue will be addressed as part of the larger issue of the environment in the Children's Library.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas**

During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 904 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That is only 4 fewer calls than January of last year. As you know 2006 now holds the record for calls for service from the police department. 15.1% of the calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 84.9% were strictly police related. The total call volume still remains very consistent in comparing January with last year.

- 162 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 197 separate violations.
- 20 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated. These collisions resulted in 5 injuries. This is about 25% higher than December of 2006 and the injuries were up 40%. I believe some of the success overall relative to collisions and injuries are related to the deployment of the radar speed signs in accident prone areas around town and the holiday "Click it or Ticket" enforcement.
- 48 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. Six were for domestic violence situations. Two were for Drunk Driving. As opposed to last month, Wednesday was the day in which the most arrests occurred. The majority of arrests were of people age 11 to 17. Persons age 25-34 and 34 to 54 both came in a close second. Overall, there were 3 more arrests than last January. Unfortunately the town experienced its second murder in the last 4 and ½ months. Once again, a co-operative effort by State and Local Police, The Worcester County D.A.s Office observant citizens and the Newton Police resulted in the offender's apprehension in less than 24 hours. The Officers from Uxbridge all performed admirably.

As stated last month, relative to road construction, by spring the traffic patterns will once again become a difficult issue and the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of new projects on a daily basis.

**Training:** Newly appointed Officers Gregory Bach and Benjamin Smoot graduated from the Boylston Academy this month and have started full time patrol duties. Officer Bach received an

award at graduation and further information on this will be forthcoming at the February 12, 2007 Selectmen's meeting.

Full time Officers Deveau and DiVitto along with Part time Officers John Larrabee, Craig Phillips, Thomas Stockwell Jr., Keith Stratton, Steven Clinton and David Harrison all completed annual firearms qualification. Officer Michael DiVitto completed In-Service Training and Officers Deveau and Morrisette are at In-Service training this week. Sgt. Peter Emerick and Detective Jody Dwight attended training as police prosecutors. Sgt. Timothy Burke and Officer David Bergeron attended training in undercover operations. Active Shooter response training was done by Officers Kevin MacDonald, Paul Stuczynski and Steven Prior. Dispatcher Melanie Blodgett-O'Toole and Joseph Lefebvre both became CPR/First Responder Instructors. Numerous training sessions will be attended during the upcoming months by many officers including but not limited to full time In Service Training.

**Emergency Management:** Sgt. Emerick has continued his hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training. More planning and training is scheduled in future months. Upgrades are also underway for the town's radio antennae system.

**Grants:** Funding has been granted for the next year of Click it or Ticket enforcement from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau with the first wave of patrols began during the Christmas Holiday Season and went thru late January 2007.

An application for \$5000 for training of Dispatchers was submitted this month to the State E911 board and it is expected to be approved.

**Animal Control:** The dog officer responded to at least 17 complaints in the month of January. Joyce Gareri has testified at court relative to a vicious dog hearing at the Dudley District Court. The Clerk of Courts in Uxbridge found in the town's favor in a case that has been ongoing for many months. The Dudley District Court judge decided that because the dog had not bitten a human, but only other pets in the neighborhood, destruction was not warranted! Although we do not agree with the judge's decision we accept it and will continue to pursue matters against other irresponsible dog owners who own vicious dogs and let them terrorize the neighborhoods. The Pit Bull Terriers that were ordered destroyed have an appeal date in February. Relative to a similar Pit Bull, the appeal time has expired and the destruction process is ongoing and failure to destroy the animal resulted in criminal complaints against the owner/caretaker and hearings on that are upcoming.

I wish to thank you and the Board of Selectmen for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

### **TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan**

#### **ELECTIONS**

- The Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday January 9, 2006. Proceedings are now being processed to update all records and for submission to the Attorney General's Office for approval.

#### **VITAL RECORDS**

In the month of January we have recorded with the Secretary of State:

- 5 Birth certificates,

- 3 Marriage licenses
- 3 Death certificates

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month a state report is required recording the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's office.

We issued:

- 55 Certified copies of birth
- 19 Certified copies marriage certificates
- 25 Certified copies of death certificates

All birth, marriage, death and business certificates are indexed on a monthly basis.

**REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES & DOG LICENSES ISSUED**

- 15 Business certificates applications processed
- 4 Couples filed new marriage intentions
- 1 Raffle Permit Issued
- 210 Dog Licenses Issued
- 6 Dog Kennel Licenses Issued

**FY07 Fees Collected**

\$2,880.00

**OTHER ITEMS ISSUE:**

- 4 Street listing books sold

**TURNOVERS**

Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the money collected for the licenses, late fees and fines by the Animal Control Officer.

Total amount of money turned over to the Treasurer/Collector's office for all fees collected for the month of January was **\$2880.00**

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

I look forward to developing and completing public outreach programs with the Board of Registrars.

**OFFICE RECORDKEEPING**

The Town Clerk's office is the archival repository for the town. Our office is responsible for all 20 day appeals on ZBA decisions, filing Planning Board documents (i.e. Form A), various board/committee minutes, time stamp posting of meetings & agendas. We also display for the public agendas and meeting postings. Individuals can request copies of meeting minutes, agendas and postings through our office.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- Research, which entailed approximately 25 hours
- Genealogy
- Notary services
- Swearing In of committee members, new police officers, public offices

**STAFF**

I began my duties at Town Clerk on January 8. Assistant Town Clerk Doris Saucier has been very supportive and helpful as I assume new responsibilities. Carol Masiello has been volunteering in the office approximately 10 hours every week since the week of January 15, working on census processing.

Board of Registrars Karen Pascucci and Mike Potaski recently resigned their positions. Karen graciously resigned to bring party balance to the Board while Mike found that new state regulations would prohibit him as a registrar from participating in party politics at his desired level. I appreciate their support and guidance during the small amount of time that I served with them and look forward to our continued association in town affairs.

### **TOWN PLANNER: Submitted by Floyd Forman**

Spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues. Spent time with the following projects before the Planning Board:

#### **Town Meeting Matters**

- Attended Town Meeting and spoke to Article to clarify locations for Townhouse Developments
- Met with Town Manager and DPW Superintendent attempting to resolve issues concerning roadway and proposed Summerfield Rezoning.
- Worked with Town Manager's office on motions for Town Meeting articles.

#### **Planning Board**

- Attended 2 Planning Board Meetings
- Waucantuck Mill: Proposed redevelopment of old mill buildings involving cleanup of a brownfield site located along Mendon St. adjacent to West River Rd. and Henry St. The project needs a Special Permit from the Planning Board. Earlier, a number of department heads and staff from the Army Corps of Engineers met with the project proponent. The Planning Board continues to meet with the proponent for project review under the Town's Special Permit Zoning Bylaw. I developed a list of about 10 items that need further discussion with the Board; including the structural soundness of the dam, architectural review of the project and recreational issues. Worked with the applicant's new lawyer in an effort to move the project along.
- Continued to work on the Meadow Valley Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan. This is a small subdivision at the Chockalog Rd. /Schnorr Sand Pit. The main concern is the lack of adequate site distance.
- Continued to work on the Quaker Industrial Park II Definitive Subdivision Plan Modification and the Unilock Request for a Special Permit. These projects go hand in hand as the subdivision needs to be modified to accommodate Unilock's use of the site. I have written draft decisions for both projects for the Planning Board.

#### **Other Matters**

- Continued to work on the Four Town project in the Lackey Dam area along Route 146.
- Completed revisions requested by DHCD to Commonwealth Capital Application for grant eligibility and forwarded it to the State.

- Completed proposed budget for Fiscal '08.
- Spent time with the new Chairman of the Planning Board explaining projects and issues in detail.
- Spent time on 43D Streamlined permitting.
- Savers Bank: Continued to work with DPW Superintendent, Savers Bank and Town traffic consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122.
- Mall: Continued to help resolve issues related to commercial development at Routes 16 and 146. This included continued discussion concerning the new streamline permitting law.
- Attended Zoning Board workshop with Bill Scanlon from CMRPC.